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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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**PALMETTO
VETS GAZETTE**

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STATE DOCUMENT

"FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK"

With Department Conventions now in the past, new leadership has taken over and reorganization and preparation for a new year is in the making. There are still problems with the funding at a National level but the future looks bright. Hopefully, the Veterans Organizations will be able to exert enough pressure to get funding back on track. With the help of the new Secretary of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Edward Derwinski, plus a supplemental budget, things are beginning to happen in providing much needed medical assistance to our veterans.

The new State Veterans Nursing Home that is being built near Belton, South Carolina, is still on schedule and Mr. Goldbar, Construction Manager, related to me on August 15, 1989, that this facility was 51 per cent completed and the target date to turn it over to the State is still July 1990.

ATTENTION: FEMALE VETERANS

A Health Fair for female veterans will be held at the Greenville VA Outpatient Clinic on Thursday, October 19, 1989, between the hours of 9 AM and 4:30 PM.

It will include Cholesterol screening, Blood Pressure checks, health and exercise information, as well as up-to-date information on veterans benefits.

For more information, contact Martha Cowan, a dietician and female patient coordinator at the clinic, at 232-7303.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Since the poignant Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built, 18 veterans have died as a result of wounds they suffered during the war. Their names are to be added to the memorial. Those additions, plus fixing misspellings originally carved into the monument and adding those whose status changed from missing in action to killed in action, will cost \$90,000. The process should begin this October.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWS

The retirement of Robert Smith last June created a vacancy for a Claims Representative in the Agency. The job announcement was posted on August 15, 1989, and by the time applications closed on September 1, 1989, we had received 88 applications for consideration. After very careful review and a lot of interviewing and soul-searching, the Director chose Clyde Myers, Jr. Clyde brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. We welcome him aboard and look forward to working together to serve this "Unique Citizen".

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS NEWS

On August 23, 1989, 18 County Veterans Affairs Officers (CVAO) from the lower part of the state attended the second CVAO Seminar of the year. From all reports, both seminars were well received. They provided an excellent vehicle for the sharing of information and concerns. A special thanks goes to Robert Weaver, Calhoun CVAO, for hosting the seminar and providing refreshments which helped make the meeting a success.

COLUMBIA VETERANS DAY PARADE

The first Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs will be the Grand Marshal of Columbia's Veterans Day Parade in November.

Columbia Mayor T. Patton Adams announced that Edward J. Derwinski had accepted the City's invitation to lead the November 10, 1989 parade.

Secretary Derwinski was a Congressman from Illinois for 24 years and served as Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology.

CVAO'S EXPAND SERVICE

Two County Veterans Affairs Offices have opened satellite offices to improve their service to veterans.

In Florence County, CVAO Maria Lewis reports that each Wednesday, from 9 AM to 1 PM, she will be in Lake City conducting business. Ms. Lewis will be located in the New Lower Florence County Office Building.

In Aiken County, CVAO Steve Lott has opened two satellite offices which also will be open on each Wednesday to assist veterans. In Wagener, the office is located in the Sheriff's Department and is open from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. In Clearwater, the office is located in the VFW Post 9164 on U. S. 1. It is open from 1:30 PM to 7 PM.

We commend both these fine County Veterans Affairs Officers on their actions to improve their service to veterans and wish them success in their new endeavors.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Judicial Review has become a reality. Public Law 100-687 was signed into law by the President on November 18, 1988. The "Rules of the Court" have not yet been established by the Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA). Therefore, it is not possible to accurately answer any questions addressed in the Public Law.

Highlights of Judicial Review:

- * Judicial Review in the CVA is available only to persons who have filed a Notice of Disagreement (NOD) with the agency of original jurisdiction on or after the date of enactment of the Act, (i.e., November 18, 1988);
- * A person adversely affected by a decision of the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) may obtain judicial review by filing a Notice of Appeal with the CVA within 120 days after the date of the BVA decision;
- * The CVA, based in the District of Columbia, will have exclusive jurisdiction to review BVA decisions; it was scheduled to commence operations on September 1, 1989, or when 3 judges have been appointed whichever comes later;
- * There is, as of yet, no mailing address for the CVA, and no rules of practice have been established to govern procedural matters;
- * The U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs will not be permitted to appeal BVA decisions;
- * Judicial Review, by the CVA, will be on the record of proceedings before VA; no additional evidence will be accepted;
- * The BVA's findings of fact will be subject to the "clearly erroneous" standard of review, and the CVA will also review conclusions of law;
- * VA will be represented by their General Counsel at the CVA and proceedings **will be adversarial** in nature;
- * An attorney or other representative must file a copy of any fee agreement with the CVA, which will have authority to review the reasonableness of such fee.

WOMEN ARE VETERANS TOO

There are approximately 600,000 women veterans; about 2 per cent of this Nation's total veteran population. South Carolina women veterans currently number about 16,100.

Today, fewer than 2,000 female veterans of World War I are still living.

Since the start of World War II, some 90,000 women have served in the Air Force, 205,000 in the Army, 174,000 in the Navy and 41,000 in the Marine Corps.

If you **DO NOT** desire to continue receiving this Newsletter, please notify this Agency by letter or telephone 734-0200.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

On October 28, 1986, President Reagan signed into law P.L. 99-572, authorizing the establishment of a memorial on Federal Land in the District of Columbia to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those killed in action, still missing in action, or those who were prisoners of war.

The legislation assigns the task of erecting the Memorial to the American Battle Monuments Commission. The same legislation also provides for the appointment of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board to advise and assist the Commission in this task. In addition, the law directs that the Memorial be built using private funds, and it authorizes the Commission to solicit, accept, and account for funds contributed for this purpose.

To date, over \$2.4 million of the \$6 million goal has been deposited by the Commission with the Treasurer of the United States in a special escrow account called the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund.

Contributions to the Memorial fund are invested in interest bearing instruments secured by the United States Government, and they may be used only for the building of the Memorial.

The Memorial will be located in Ash Woods, a grove of trees on the Mall located near the Lincoln Memorial and directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This site was selected, from among four, by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board and the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Contributions to the Memorial from individuals, group, organizations or corporations should be sent to:

Korean Battle Monuments Commission
American Battle Monuments Commission
P.O. Box 2372
Washington, D.C. 20012-23

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